



# IPSAWG

## Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group

Minutes from June 15, 2005 Meeting

Attending: Mike Cline, Bob Waltz, Ken Collins, Larry Nees, Keith Johnson, Phil O'Connor, Ellen Jacquart, Lee Casebere

This meeting was scheduled for a few of us from IPSAWG to review what we had accomplished so far and think about where we are headed. This review and thoughts on our future will be brought to the next full IPSAWG meeting for a broader discussion.

☺ Indicates an action item someone agreed to follow up on

**1. Review of Accomplishments** – Ellen reviewed what IPSAWG has accomplished over the last four years:

- The working group is diverse and works well together
- 19 to 26 species have been assessed (depending how you count them – see table later in document) and recommendations developed
- Fact sheets completed for six species, two more in preparation
- Talks given to several garden clubs and Master Gardener groups on our recommendations; IPSAWG information posted on [www.invasivespecies.in.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.in.gov) and linked to Purdue Weed Control website.
- Level of interest and enthusiasm in the group has led us to discuss much broader invasive issues than just preventing the intentional introduction of invasives

**2. Things Still to Pursue**

- A few more high priority species to assess – Euonymus sp., sweet clover
- Lower priority species – how do we handle? There are perhaps another 20 plant species that either have very minor ecological impacts and/or are a very minor part of the trade. Is there a quicker way to cover those lower priority species than our current process? No consensus was reached on this; we should probably query the group to find out if there are species not yet assessed that people want to pursue.
- Getting the word out – finish the fact sheets, see if we can better engage Purdue Extension – Horticulture in distributing the information through Master Gardeners and other outlets. We need to approach Ext-Hort about this, but how isn't clear.

**3. What's Next?** There was a general discussion of what IPSAWG should focus on, and who might lead this effort given that Ellen will not have the time to devote to this effort that she did in the past. Thoughts on what's next:

There was general agreement by all in attendance that this group has a continuing role to play in invasive plant species issues in Indiana. There was also consensus that the role should expand beyond just prevention of intentional introductions, though that is still an important focus.

Mike Cline suggested that the group should be keeping an eye on legislation, as the experience and diverse representation in this group could be used to make sure proposed legislation is useful and appropriate. It was agreed that we should introduce ourselves to the new Dept. of Agriculture (headed by Andy Miller) and to key legislators to make sure they know who we are, should questions come up about invasive plants. ☺ Mike, Bob Waltz, and Larry Nees will work to arrange an introductory meeting.

Keith Johnson believes that this group should play a role in keeping out *new* species that have the potential to be invasive, whether they are intentionally introduced or simply unintentional weed introductions. Someone needs to be studying the potential invasiveness of new introductions – should that be IPSAWG?

Bob Waltz felt that the existence of this group provides appropriate direction and oversight for DNR policies on invasive species (in a sense, kind of a technical advisory committee on invasive species) and that is a very helpful thing. He thinks a greater focus on aquatic nuisance species would be good – helping with the effort to connect with distributors and be involved in any regulatory process.

Lee Casebere agreed the group should continue its efforts but that a strong leader is important to the group's success. There was discussion over who might fill the role that Ellen has been playing. A recently retired extension person or resource manager looking for an interesting project would be perfect. ☺ We'll all watch for such an individual.

The discussion turned to how to better distribute the workload and clarify responsibilities. We outlined several committees we'd like to create:

1. **Aquatic Nuisance Species.** Doug Keller, Carol Lembi are suggested members. This committee would update IPSAWG on aquatic invasive issues and bring issues for discussion and/or help (reports of new aquatic invasives, management challenges, inventory issues).
2. **Regulatory/Legislative.** Bob Waltz, Larry Nees, and Mike Cline are suggested members. This committee would track pertinent regulatory and legislative initiatives and link IPSAWG's expertise and experience to the creation and refinement of such initiatives (where possible).
3. **Outreach/Education.** Kay Hagens, Tim Martin, Donna Rogler, and Sam Carman are suggested members. This committee would help IPSAWG spread the message – through ideas for displays, printed materials, powerpoint shows, etc.

4. **Agronomic.** Keith Johnson, Larry Nees, Steve Houghton, and Dave Forgey are suggested members. This committee would bring potential agronomic introductions to IPSAWG for review, develop best management practices for agronomic species which are to some degree invasive but still used in the state, and bring new agronomic issues relating to invasive species to the IPSAWG meetings.
5. **Biotech.** Zach Reicher, Keith Johnson, Bob Waltz, and Larry Nees are suggested members. This committee will track genetic engineering initiatives as they relate to invasive species and bring pertinent projects to the attention of IPSAWG.
6. **Green Industry.** Mike Cline, Zach Reicher, and Dave Gorden are suggested members. This committee would bring potential horticulture introductions of concern to IPSAWG for review and bring new horticultural issues relating to invasive species to the IPSAWG meetings.
7. **Natural Resources.** Bob Waltz, Phil O'Connor, Lee Casebere, Ellen Jacquart, Ken Collins, Kirk Larsen, and Tom Good are suggested members. This committee would bring information on new invasive species found in Indiana that threaten natural resources, work to standardize inventory/survey standards for invasive plant species in the state, and where possible slow the spread of new species to the state.

The suggested committee members are a starting point; we will add other members from the IPSAWG group who are interested. This committee structure gives all of us more ownership in the agenda of IPSAWG meetings and the opportunity to bring forward important and timely invasive species issues the group should discuss.

We agreed that the next full IPSAWG meeting will be September 6 at 9 am, location to be determined.

IPSAWG Assessments as of June 15, 2005:

Category	Impact	Potential for Expansion	Management Difficulty	Overall Invasive Score	Value
Low (L)	< 12	<20	<15	<44	< 6
Medium (M)	12 to 25	20 to 30	15 to 25	45 to 80	
High (H)	26-41	30 to 40	25 to 58	>81	7 to 29
Very High (VH)	41 to 70.5				

	Ecological Impact	Potential for Expansion	Difficulty of Management	Overall Invasive Score	Commercial Value
Asian Bush Honeysuckle*	70.5	33	37	140.5	13
Phragmites**	64.5	38	37	139.5	0
Glossy Buckthorn*	64.5	33	36	133.5	13
Oriental Bittersweet*	42	38	30	110	3
Reed Canary Grass	52.5	31	26	109.5	6
Japanese Honeysuckle*	42	34	24	100	13
Blunt-leaved privet	24	34	38	96	13
Autumn Olive*	12	31	35	78	3
Japanese knotweed*	12	38	23	73	3
Periwinkle	42	10	19	71	13
Crown Vetch**	18	31	21	70	3
Japanese hops	12	29	28	69	3
Species considered invasive in Midwest, but not yet invasive in Indiana:					
Common Privet	0	34	0	34	13
Common Buckthorn	0	33	0	33	0
Russian Olive	0	31	0	31	3
Tall Fescue	0	31	0	31	29
Sericea, bicolor lespedeza, Korean lespedeza	0	22	0	22	0

\*Fact sheet completed

\*\*Fact sheet in preparation